

Message Text

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73

ACTION NEA-13

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 260625Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5195

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS TEHRAN 0658

BEIRUT PASS TO USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG IS IR

SUBJ: GOI AND PRESS WELCOME EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD

SUMMARY: GOI AND PRESS WELCOME EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT

ACCORD AS FIRST STEP IN ROCKY ROAD IN REACHING LASTING

MID EAST PEACE. END SUMMARY.

1. ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD HIGHLIGHTED BY PRESS AND
IRAN RADIO NEWS BROADCAST. GOI WELCOMED ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT
AND FOREIGN MINISTRY EXPRESSED HOPE IT WOULD CONSTITUTE FIRST

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STEP TOWARD A JUST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. ITEM APPEARING IN

THE JOURNAL, JANUARY 19, STATED TEHRAN HAD BEEN OPTIMISTIC OVER OUTCOME OF GENEVA PEACE TALKS AND OPENLY SUPPORTED SADAT'S "PEACEFUL APPROACH" TOWARD SETTLEMENT. REITERATED IRAN'S STANCE THAT FINAL SETTLEMENT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND A JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

2. PRESS REPORTED THAT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN TERMED THE ACCORDS A USEFUL DEVELOPMENT BUT WARNED IF ISRAEL DOES NOT SHOW

GOOD FAITH, IT WILL HAVE COMMITTED THE GREATEST BLUNDER. THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE IT WILL LEAD TO LASTING SETTLEMENT FOR ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED. THE SYRIAN CHARGE, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, EXPRESSED DOUBT OF ISRAEL'S GOOD FAITH AND STATED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD DEMANDED FULL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FORCES FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.

3. SETTELAT, IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "PROS AND CONS OF THE PACT", INTERPRETED WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL'S FORCES AS PROVIDING MEANS WHEREBY EGYPT CAN SPEEDILY RESETTLE A MILLION OF ITS REFUGEES IN THE SINAI DESERT AND MOVE TO REOPEN THE SUEZ CANAL. THE WITHDRAWAL, EDITORIAL AVERS, PROVES SADAT RIGHT IN HIS POLICY AND BELIEVES THIS WILL CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION AT HOME. ON NEGATIVE SIDE, EDITORIAL SEES NO POINTS IN ACCORD LINKING IT TO ANY FINAL SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM UNLESS "THEY ARE IN THE SECRET CLAUSES" AND WORRIES THAT THE "NEW SITUATION WILL PROVE UNSATISFACTORY TO THE EXTREME NATIONALISTS".

4. AYANDEGAN EDITORIAL, JANUARY 20, EXPOUNDS THAT ARABS AND ISRAELIS HAD APPROACHED THEIR LIMITS IN TERMS OF ECONOMICS RATHER THAN FIGHTING CAPACITY. ALLEGES FOR THIS REASON IT BROUGHT HOME TO THEM THAT ISRAEL MUST SEARCH FOR SAFE BORDERS IN A POLITICAL CONTEXT AND THE ARABS WILL BE UNABLE TO WIPE ISRAEL OFF THE MAP EXCEPT THROUGH SUICIDE. IT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING OF THESE REALITIES, EDITORIAL CONCLUDES, WHICH PROMOTED BOTH SIDES TO DISCUSS A LASTING PEACE. FEARS UNLESS SYRIA, JORDAN AND PLO AGREE "TO JOIN THE GAME", THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD WILL BE OF SHORT DURATION.

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5. THE JOURNAL, IN JANUARY 19 EDITORIAL, VIEWED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS FORERUNNER OF SERIES OF ACCORDS WHICH MAY BRING PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST REGION. CONJECTURES THAT NEXT STEP WILL BE REBUILDING OF DESTROYED CITIES IN AND AROUND THE SUEZ CANAL AND ITS REOPENING. POSTULATES ISRAEL MUST CONSIDER RETURNING TERRITORIES IT OCCUPIED IN 1967 WAR AND SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH THE ICE HAS BEEN BROKEN, EDITORIAL STATES, THE ARAB COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO COME TO TERMS WITH THE IDEA OF A

STATE OF ISRAEL IF PEACE IN REGION IS TO PROSPER. ADMONISHES THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE PEACE TALKS TO KEEP WATCH FOR THOSE COUNTRIES SEEKING ONLY CONTINUANCE OF STRIFE AND WARFARE.

6. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL EDITORIAL, JANUARY 19, VIEWS SIGNING OF AGREEMENT AS IMPORTANT POSITIVE STEP TOWARDS "WHAT MAY BE LASTING PEACE IN AREA". EXPOUNDS ISRAELIS MUST SHOW THEY REALLY PREPARED FOR PEACE, WHICH PRE-SUPPOSES THEIR WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, INCLUDING "NON-EGYPTIAN LAND". STATES PEACE MUST BE TOTAL AND THAT IS WHY PALESTINIANS MUST ALSO FIND A PLACE IN THE ARRANGEMENTS. CAUTIONS DANGER TO PEACE WILL BE IN EVENT AGREEMENT

FOLLOWED BY A STALEMATE AND THAT TROOP DISENGAGEMENT NOT AN END IN ITSELF, BUT ONLY A MEANS OF CREATING CONDITIONS CONDUCTIVE TO PEACE.
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